

**Framework Convention
for the Protection of the Marine
Environment of the Caspian Sea**

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**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
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Items 5 and 12 of the provisional agenda

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CASPIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME (EMP)**

Note by the interim Secretariat

Introduction.

1. COP4 welcomed the Caspian Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) contained in document TC/COP4/7 as “the basis for continuation of this activity and capacity-building and regional cooperation for monitoring the parameters which determine the quality of the marine environment of the Caspian Sea”; and requested the (interim) Secretariat “to coordinate and promote its implementation with the involvement and/or support of CaspCom, the GEF, the EU, and other stakeholders;
2. The Institutional and Planning Meeting in Geneva, 19-20 December 2013, was informed of the outcome of the 18th Session of the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM), in Ashgabat, 27-28 November 2013, and welcomed the MoU between CASPCOM and the Tehran Convention interim Secretariat (TCIS) signed at that meeting. Note was taken of the “Regional framework and network for the Tehran Convention and Protocol compliance and assessment” prepared at the request of TCIS and it was agreed that efforts will be made to revitalize the Working Group on Monitoring established under the CaspEco project, with a view to prioritize and initiate the implementation of the EMP. It was acknowledged that a first meeting of the WG and initial implementation activities will depend on the availability of extra-budgetary resources.
3. The signed MoU between CASPCOM and TCIS and the regional framework prepared at the request of TCIS are contained as Annexes to this note.

4. Suggested Action

The Conference of the Parties on the recommendation of its PrepCom, may wish to discuss and consider how the implementation of the EMP can be advanced, and to review and decide on paragraphs 14, 15 and 16 of the draft Ministerial Statement contained in document TC/COP5/7.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the Framework Convention
for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea
and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology
and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea

Recognizing the uniqueness and integrity of the Caspian Sea, its significant natural resource and economic potential, whose rational use is of paramount importance for the sustainable development of Caspian littoral states;

Noting the common interest in development of the Caspian Sea monitoring for preservation of its environment;

Emphasizing the importance of providing the end-users with reliable hydrometeorological data and information on the state of the environment, to assist them in their activities, as well as in solving social, economic and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea;

Acknowledging the assistance from the international organizations, foundations, and donors towards solution of the economic and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea;

Relying on commitments of the Caspian littoral states to render support to activities towards the sustainable development of the Caspian Sea region

the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran, 2003) and the Coordinating Committee on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPCOM), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties", have agreed as follows:

- The Parties will provide effective contributions to implementation of the objectives under the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, as well as the objectives under the Integrated Programme on Hydrometeorology and Pollution Monitoring of the Caspian Sea (CASPAS);
- The Parties will cooperate in the field of hydrometeorology and pollution monitoring of the Caspian Sea. To this end, CASPCOM will avail the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea of data and information obtained by CASPCOM that are pertinent to solution of the social, economic, and environmental problems of the Caspian Sea, provided that such transfer of information will be executed in accordance with the agreed legal standards required for this procedure.

For its part, the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea will refer to CASPCOM as an authoritative source of data and information pertaining to the hydrometeorology and monitoring of environmental pollution of the Caspian Sea;

- The Parties will undertake concrete steps to provide practical assistance to the Caspian states for rehabilitation and development of an integrated regional observation system and exchange of hydrometeorological data and information on the state and pollution of the Caspian Sea;
- The Parties will provide consultations and keep each other informed on the ongoing and scheduled activities and initiatives of mutual interest;
- The Parties will undertake appropriate administrative measures to ensure their participation in the sessions and meetings of mutual interest;
- The Parties will appoint their authorized focal points for keeping contacts on the issues of mutual interest.

Signed in the city of Ashgabat on the twenty-eighth day of November of 2013 in two English copies.

**For
the Framework Convention
for the Protection
of the Marine Environment
of the Caspian Sea**



**Mahir Aliyev
Regional Coordinator
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**For
the Coordinating Committee
on Hydrometeorology
and Pollution Monitoring
of the Caspian Sea**



**Batyr Hallyyev
Chairman of the Coordinating
Committee on Hydrometeorology
and Pollution Monitoring
of the Caspian Sea**

Annex II

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORK AND NETWORK FOR THE TEHRAN CONVENTION
AND PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

Activities	Implementation hints	CASPCOM invol
OUTPUT 1: Operational Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) integrated with current national monitoring. Monitoring and reporting capacity upgraded in the Caspian countries and harmonized metho		
Development of institutional and operational procedures for a sustainable environmental monitoring system, including a network of national monitoring institutions and National Focal Points	A network of nationally authorized organizations (one for each littoral country) responsible for Caspian Sea monitoring is established. The EMP implementation is coordinated by Tehran Convention Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (CASPMONAS) composed of the representatives of the responsible monitoring organizations (National Focal Points) and a CASPCOM representative. The CASPMONAS Terms of Reference is adopted/endorsed by COP.	CASPCOM joins participates in its a
Negotiate/agree on the set of marine environment characteristics to be used in Environmental Quality Objectives* and Standards ** for the Caspian Sea	CASPMONAS decides on the set of hydrochemical, hydrobiological and hydrophysical characteristics which will form the basis of the regional Environmental Quality Standards and the Caspian State of Environment Report. This set of characteristics should take into account the expected climate and water balance changes in the Caspian Sea region and be used to evaluate the completeness of the EMP in terms of data requirements.	CASPCOM pa CASPMONAS ac the best available status of hydroph existing and expect balance trends a Caspian Sea regi the Caspian Sea changes of sea le salinity, vertical layer ventilation, e
Carry out a gap analysis of the required monitoring capacity and study the compatibility of national methodologies, including identification of resource requirements to ensure harmonization. Capacity building to improve the countries' technical and scientific capacity in order to bring all countries to a common benchmark. Develop common regional guidelines for the implementation of the EMP, taking into	CASPMONAS conducts a comparative analyses of the national monitoring programmes against the Caspian EMP requirements (sampling station networks, sampled media, chemical substances and biological parameters, sampling/analytical methodologies and techniques) and identifies a set of measures required to ensure that all littoral states reach the required level of	CASPCOM partic and makes suggest and satellite hydrological accompany chem biological observ implementation.

<p>account international standards and including a common and comparable quality assurance /quality control system</p>	<p>capacity (making lists of lacking equipment, arranging for chemical laboratory proficiency tests and personnel training). These set of measures will form bases for funding requests which the TC Secretariat will bring to the attention of the potential donors. CASPMONAS agrees upon methods/techniques used for sampling and chemical analyses and disseminates methodology reference materials among nationally authorized organizations responsible for Caspian Sea monitoring. CASPMONAS also agrees on the quality control procedures to be applied to the monitoring data in all littoral states to ensure the monitoring data comparability.</p>	
<p>Development of an international legal instrument on data sharing among the littoral states</p>	<p>CASPMONAS develops a procedure for national monitoring data sharing among the littoral states to be adopted and authorized by COP. It is strongly recommended that the data sharing procedure takes a form of a binding legal instrument (protocol, agreement, etc.).</p>	<p>CASPCOM proposes application of the <i>of hydrometeorology</i> or suggests other methods for exchange of climate hydrophysical data. CASPCOM also recommends methods for integration and CASPCOM in</p>
<p>Testing the Caspian EMP implementation arrangements during pilot coordinated monitoring cruises</p>	<p>Based on the results of its previous activities the CASPMONAS coordinates national monitoring cruises to the monitoring stations assigned for each Caspian state, the sample chemical analyses, the data quality control and its exchange regionally.</p>	<p>CASPCOM using observations and hydrometeorological calculated sea current fluxes between various for the dates and times during the monitoring hydrometeorological integral part of the monitoring cruise the Caspian EMP proper interpretation data.</p>
<p>Keeping under review the progress of EMP implementation</p>	<p>CASPMONAS continuously keeps under review the progress of EMP implementation by addressing the national reports on EMP implementation</p>	<p>CASPCOM participates with a special reference hydrophysical data CASPCOM provides</p>

	and, if necessary, revises EMP to achieve its maximum applicability to the needs of Tehran Convention.	reports on its contribution to the implementation, and on furtherance of the Convention to achieve its maximum contribution to the goals of Tehran Convention.
OUTPUT 2: The next Caspian State of Environment Report based on agreed procedures. Operational Capacity Building Information Centre (CEIC) as the central hub and database for national reporting, SoE-Reporting, policy information exchange		
Identification of a set of characteristics to describe the state of environment of the Caspian Sea.	CASPMONAS reviews the earlier identified Environmental Quality Standards for the Caspian Sea and outlines a list of physical, chemical, biological and social-economic characteristics which will be used to describe the State of Environment of the Caspian Sea. The relevant experience of other regional Conventions as well as the World Ocean Assessment process is reviewed and duly accommodated.	CASPCOM contributes to the identification of hydrophysical and hydrochemical characteristics which will describe the State of Environment of the Caspian Sea
Elaboration of the composition of the Caspian State of Environment Report	CASPMONAS forms and agrees upon the annotated composition (list of chapters) of the Caspian State of Environment Report (SoER)	CASPCOM elaborates the report in chapters devoted to the water balance (river discharge, evaporation, precipitation)
Elaboration of Unified Reporting Format(s)	CASPMONAS elaborates and COP adopts the Unified Reporting Format(s) as national contributions to the Caspian State of Environment Report (SoE) Report and other procedures for the SoE Report preparation.	CASPCOM contributes to the development of Reporting Format(s) and procedures for the report in the fields of its mandate
Formation of an interdisciplinary pool of experts to be involved in the Caspian State of Environment (SoE) Report preparation	CASPMONAS develops and COP adopts the principles for the pool of experts formation. If agreed, CASPMONAS endorses/adopts the list of experts.	CASPCOM provides technical support on climate and water balance to prepare the relevant chapters of the State of Environment Report
Regional capacity building in the field of the marine environment assessment	CASPMONAS arranges the capacity building events on data analyses, trend identification, modeling and etc. for the experts selected for the Caspian State of Environment Report preparation in collaboration with other regional sea	CASPCOM participates in capacity building events with a focus on climate change and water balance characteristic analysis and provides input from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

	Conventions (HELCOM and Black Sea Commission) as well as international agencies such as the EEA, UNEP, GRID-Arendal	
Preparation of the Caspian SoE Report based on agreed procedures (legally-binding agreement on monitoring and reporting, the EMP and the Unified Reporting Format)	The pool of experts prepares and CASPMONAS reviews/endorse the Caspian SoE Report based on agreed procedures (the EMP, legally-binding agreement on monitoring data exchange and the Unified Reporting Formats). The final adoption of the Caspian SoE Report rests with a COP.	

* Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs): are specification of water/sediment quality that a body of water (Caspian Sea, etc.) must match in order to be considered suitable for its intended use.

** Environmental Quality Standards (EQSs) are the degree of concentration of a substance that a body of water (Caspian Sea, etc.) should not exceed if a specified Environmental Quality Objectives is to be maintained.